



NEWS RELEASE

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PALMER MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD PORN CHARGES IN FEDERAL COURT

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced today, December 27, 2007, that Arlo E. Erickson, a resident of Palmer, Alaska, pleaded guilty in federal court to four counts of distribution of child pornography and two counts of possession of child pornography.

Erickson, age 70, pleaded guilty to these charges before United States District Court Judge Timothy M. Burgess.

In connection with the guilty plea, Assistant United States Attorney Daniel R. Cooper, Jr. advised the court that on at least four occasions, Erickson traded child pornography with others via the Internet and possessed hundreds of images of child pornography on his home computer and various disks. In a hearing closed to protect the identity of minor children, Erickson admitted that he had sexually abused four minor children on multiple occasions.

Judge Burgess scheduled sentencing for March 18, 2008, at 3:00 p.m. The law provides for a mandatory minimum sentence of five years and a maximum of 20 years in prison for each count of distribution and a maximum of ten years for each count of possession. The court may also impose a fine of \$250,000 for each count. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed is based upon the seriousness of the offenses and the criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

Pending sentencing, the court ordered that the defendant remain in custody.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement, assisted by the Wasilla Police Department, conducted the investigation that led to the prosecution of Erickson.

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